

**March 23<sup>th</sup>. HS A at 14h.**

**MASTER DEFENSE: Jet Vessies**

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**A 4800 years perspective of climate and human influence on mountain vegetation dynamics in the French Alps**

A case study located in the 'Aiguilles Rouges' (Mont Blanc area)



Climate change and human activities are the main drivers of vegetation change in mountain ecosystems. Their interactions, and changes over time, give us an idea of long-term vegetation dynamics. Sedimentary lake archives have long been used to reconstruct past ecosystems. The landscape Reconstruction Algorithm is a model to better reconstruct past vegetation based on these paleoenvironmental archives. This modeling approach has not been used much in mountain areas yet. The aim of this thesis is to reconstruct past alpine vegetation changes using this modelling scheme. The results highlight the complex interactions between climate change and human activities in mountain regions, in particular how human populations have been affected by past climate change from a local to a regional perspective.